

Martin, Molly

From: Ziegler, Sam
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Diamond, Jane; Woo, Nancy; Kemmerer, John; Martin, Molly
Subject: Fw: EPA Evaluation Team Site Visit to Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program
Attachments: BCR Response to Annenberg Wetlands Proposal.pdf; EHL-BallonaMOU.pdf; LA Audubon Opposition to Annenberg Ballona Proposal.pdf; Sacramento Audubon Opposition to Annenberg Ballona Proposal.pdf; 05.17.14 Lieu to Ballona Wetlands Trust.pdf

FYI.
Sam Ziegler
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(sent by mobile device)

From: Walter Lamb <landtrust@ballona.org>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2014 9:57:37 AM
To: Mccarthy, Gina
Cc: Konner, Thomas; Ziegler, Sam
Subject: EPA Evaluation Team Site Visit to Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Dear EPA Staff:

It has come to our attention that you will be conducting a site visit to the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program from June 10 - June 12. We understand that other stakeholder groups have requested to be included in the site visit process and that you have determined that that is not feasible during this visit. As much as I appreciate the full agenda that is already planned for you, it does seem a missed opportunity for you to not benefit from a range of stakeholder perspectives during your visit. As a member of the Watershed Advisory Council, which serves as an advisory body to the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust is particularly concerned that SMBRC/Bay Foundation staff have been actively involved in supporting a highly controversial project involving the Annenberg Foundation, which centers on the Foundation's long-held desire for domestic pet adoption facilities. We find it deeply troubling that the official website of the Ballona Restoration Project [ballonarestoration.org], is now promoting domestic pet adoption services as part of the preferred CEQA alternative for this public ecological reserve, and that the web site is in fact hosted on a server under the control of the Annenberg Foundation.

We respectfully request official assurances from EPA that no NEP funds are being used to further that project, which is opposed by numerous mainstream environmental groups (see samples attached), elected officials (sample attached), and the LA Times editorial board, which called the adoption facilities a "bad fit" for the ecological reserve. [<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-0920-ballona-wetlands-20130920-story.html>]. Such assurances would include an accounting of which funds were used to pay for SMBRC/Bay Foundation staff time during the many staff hours devoted to helping the Annenberg Foundation pursue their private goal of domestic pet adoption services within the ecological reserve.

Please let me know how we can facilitate a discussion either in person or by phone prior to completing your official evaluation of the SMBNEP, so that we can be sure that this important issue is addressed.

Sincerely,

Walter Lamb
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